

## Message Text

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71

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-15 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10

LAB-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 L-03 DODE-00 PA-03

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INFO AMEMBASSY BERN

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AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

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AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION OECD PARIS UNN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, SGEN, EEC

SUBJECT: ETUC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

REF: COPENHAGEN 2375

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. THE SEPTEMBER 28 MEETING OF THE  
ETUC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FAILED TO PRODUCE DEFINITIVE  
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ANSWERS TO KEY QUESTIONS SUCH AS WCL AFFILIATION

WITH THE ETUC, FUTURE RELATIONS WITH THE CGT-CGIL PERMANENT COMMITTEE IN BRUSSELS, AND ETUC POSITIONS ON EC SOCIAL POLICY. ALL THREE ISSUES WERE REFERRED TO SPECIAL COMMITTEES FOR FURTHER STUDY. THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AUTHORIZED THE ETUC PRESIDENT AND GENERAL SECRETARY TO HOLD EXPLORATORY TALKS WITH CGIL LEADERS IN RESPONSE TO A CGIL INITIATIVE PROPOSING AN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS. IT WAS AGREED THAT FORMER TUC GENERAL SECRETARY FEATHERS WILL CONTINUE AS ETUC PRESIDENT FOR THE TIME BEING. THERE WAS GENERAL DISCUSSION OF THE EAST-WEST TRADE UNION MEETING PLANNED FOR JANUARY IN GENEVA WHICH MOST ETUC AFFILIATED UNIONS ARE EXPECTED TO ATTEND. END SUMMARY.

2. DESPITE PERSISTENT RUMORS IN BOTTETUC AND WCL CIRCLES INDICATING AN AGREEMENT ON AFFILIATION BY CHRISTIAN UNIONS WITH THE ETUC WAS IMMINENT, THE ETUC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE HAS AGAIN DEFERRED A DECISION ON THE MATTER. THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED LAST MAY TO STUDY THE AFFILIATION QUESTION HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED TO CONTINUE ITS EFFORTS TO RESOLVE THE ISSUE AND REPORT ITS FINDINGS ON NOVEMBER 6. THE ETUC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE IS DETERMINED TO PREVENT THE DEVELOPMENT OF "TENDENCIES" (FACTIONS) WITHIN THE ETUC WHICH WOULD OCCUR IF MEMBERSHIP WAS ACCORDED THE EUROPEAN ORGANIZATION OF THE WCL (EO-WCL) OR ANY BLOCK OF CHRISTIAN UNIONS.

3. THE ETUC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE'S DEFERRAL OF THE QUESTION OF WCL AFFILIATION CAN PROBABLY BE ATTRIBUTED, AT LEAST IN PART, TO THE DESIRE TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE RESULTS OF THE WCL CONGRESS AT EVIAN, FRANCE (WHICH ENDED SEPTEMBER 28) BEFORE REACHING ANY DECISIONS. (A REPORT ON THE WCL CONGRESS IS BEING SENT SEPARATELY.) CONVERSATIONS OF THE MISSION'S LABATT WITH SEVERAL UNION LEADERS AT EVIAN HOWEVER INDICATE THAT SOME CHRISTIAN UNIONS HAVE ALREADY DECIDED TO AFFILIATE WITH THE ETUC O

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AN INDIVIDUAL BASIS WITH EO-WCL BLESSINGS.

4. A MOVE TO REACH AGREEMENT ON FUTURE ETUC POLICY TOWARD THE EC SOCIAL ACTION PROGRAM WHICH IS UNDER FORMULATION BY THE COMMUNITY'S INSTITUTIONS, PURSUANT TO THE 1972 EC SUMMIT, WAS ALSO DEFERRED BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. A COMMITTEE WAS APPOINTED TO DEVELOP ETUC POLICY IN THIS REGARD

AND WAS INSTRUCTED TO REPORT ITS FINDINGS TO A SPECIAL ETUC EXECUTIVE SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING ON OCTOBER 10.

5. THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CHARGED THE ETUC SECRETARIAT WITH THE RESPONSIBILITY OF DEVELOPING AN OVERALL ETUC ACTION PROGRAM FOR THE PERIOD 1974-77. A WORKING GROUP WILL DRAFT THE PROPOSED ACTION PROGRAM TO BE PRESENTED AT THE NEXT GENERAL ETUC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULED FOR NOVEMBER 24.

6. THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ALSO PUT OFF THE POSSIBILITY OF LIMITED ETUC COOPERATION WITH THE CGT-CGIL PERMANENT COMMITTEE WHICH IS LOCATED IN BRUSSELS TO DEAL WITH EC AFFAIRS BY CALLING FOR CONTINUED STUDY OF THE MATTER. HOWEVER, IT DID AUTHORIZE THE ETUC PRESIDENT AND THE GENERAL SECRETARY TO HOLD EXPLORATORY TALKS WITH CGIL LEADERS "AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL" ON FUTURE ETUC-CGIL RELATIONS. THIS DECISION WAS IN RESPONSE TO A CGIL PROPOSAL THAT THE TWO ORGANIZATIONS EXCHANGE VIEWS.

7. ACCORDING TO ETUC DEPUTY GENERAL SECRETARY SANDEGREN IT WAS A "HARD" MEETING AND NOT VERY DEFINITIVE IN TERMS OF REACHING AGREEMENT ON ACTION. NEVERTHELESS, ON BALANCE, HE SAID, IT REPRESENTED A STEP FORWARD. SANDEGREN TOLD US THE POSITION OF THE FRENCH FO ON THE KEY ISSUES WAS A MAJOR OBSTACLE TO REACHING AGREEMENTS. TUC GENERAL SECRETARY MURRAY MADE A GENERAL STATEMENT WHICH WAS WELL RECEIVED, BUT HE DID NOT PLAY AN ACTIVE ROLE AND WAS PRIMARILY A LISTENER. SANDEGREN TOLD US THAT THE COMMITTEE DECIDED THAT VICTOR FEATHERS SHOULD CONTINUE AS TUC PRESIDENT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FOR THE TIME BEING ALTHOUGH HE WAS NO LONGER TUC GENERAL SECRETARY.

8. COMMENT. SANDEGREN SEEMED RELUCTANT TO DISCUSS WITH US THE DETAILS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE'S DISCUSSION ON THE EAST-WEST MEETING AT GENEVA IN JANUARY. HE LEFT US WITH THE IMPRESSION, HOWEVER, THAT IT WILL BE WELL-ATTENDED BY ETUC AFFILIATES. HARTMAN

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